

House File 32 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 32

BY ISENHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to outdoor education and recreation programs
2 serving youth, and making appropriations.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 456A.39 No child left inside
2 program — fund created — appropriation.

3 1. The director shall establish and administer a no
4 child left inside program to provide grants for outdoor
5 environmental, ecological, and other natural resource-based
6 education and recreation programs serving youth.

7 2. The director may award grants under this section to
8 accredited public school districts, accredited nonpublic
9 schools, or private nonprofit organizations.

10 3. *a.* In awarding grants under this section, the director
11 shall give preference to programs that satisfy the following
12 priorities:

13 (1) Provides students with opportunities to directly
14 experience and understand nature and the natural world.

15 (2) Uses a research-based, effective environmental,
16 ecological, or other natural resource-based educational
17 curriculum.

18 (3) Maximizes the number of participants that can be served.

19 (4) Serves children with limited opportunities to
20 participate in natural resource-based outdoor activities.

21 (5) Uses public park and other natural resource venues and
22 personnel as a resource.

23 (6) Commits to matching funds or in-kind resources.

24 *b.* In addition to considering the preferences in paragraph
25 "a", the director shall ensure that at least fifty percent
26 of the moneys awarded under this section benefit students
27 attending schools that qualify for funding under Tit. I of the
28 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

29 4. *a.* An outdoor education and recreation fund is
30 established in the state treasury under the control of the
31 department. The fund shall consist of moneys deposited
32 in the fund from appropriations, gifts, grants, and other
33 contributions. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the
34 department for the purpose of issuing grants as part of the
35 no child left inside program. Notwithstanding section 8.33,

1 moneys in the fund that remain unencumbered or unobligated
2 at the close of a fiscal year shall not revert but shall
3 remain available for expenditure for the purpose designated.
4 Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
5 earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

6 *b.* The fund may consist of moneys that are deposited in
7 the fund prior to July 1, 2025, from moneys received by the
8 state from the elementary and secondary school emergency relief
9 fund created pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
10 Economic Security Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136, as amended by the
11 Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260,
12 and from moneys received by the state under the American Rescue
13 Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2, unless the governor
14 determines such deposit to be contrary to federal guidelines or
15 regulations. Any moneys deposited pursuant to this paragraph
16 shall be used for the purpose of issuing grants as part of the
17 no child left inside program prior to using moneys deposited to
18 the fund from the general fund.

19 *c.* For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and for each
20 fiscal year thereafter, there is appropriated from the general
21 fund of the state to the outdoor education and recreation fund
22 established in paragraph "a" the sum of one million dollars.
23 At least fifty percent of the moneys appropriated under this
24 paragraph shall be used to provide grants to benefit students
25 attending schools that qualify for funding under Tit. I of the
26 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

27

EXPLANATION

28 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
29 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

30 This bill relates to outdoor education and recreation
31 programs serving youth. The bill requires the director of
32 the department of natural resources (DNR) to establish and
33 administer a no child left inside program to provide grants for
34 outdoor environmental, ecological, and other natural
35 resource-based education and recreation programs serving

1 youth. The director may award grants to accredited public
2 school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, or private
3 nonprofit organizations, with preference given to programs that
4 satisfy certain priorities. The director shall also ensure
5 that at least 50 percent of the moneys awarded benefit students
6 attending schools that qualify for funding under Tit. I of the
7 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

8 The bill establishes an outdoor education and recreation
9 fund in the state treasury under the control of DNR. The
10 fund shall consist of moneys deposited in the fund from
11 appropriations, gifts, grants, and other contributions, but may
12 also consist of moneys that are deposited in the fund prior
13 to July 1, 2025, from moneys received by the state from the
14 elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund created
15 pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security
16 Act and from moneys received by the state under the American
17 Rescue Plan Act of 2021, unless the governor determines such
18 deposit to be contrary to federal guidelines or regulations.
19 Any moneys deposited from either federal source shall be used
20 for the purpose of issuing grants as part of the no child left
21 inside program prior to using moneys deposited to the fund from
22 the general fund.

23 For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and each fiscal
24 year thereafter, the bill makes an appropriation of \$1 million
25 from the general fund to the outdoor education and recreation
26 fund. At least 50 percent of the moneys appropriated shall be
27 used to provide grants to benefit students attending schools
28 that qualify for funding under Tit. I of the federal Elementary
29 and Secondary Education Act of 1965.